

DOCKET NO.: 204936US0X

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

TERUAKI TAJI, ET AL.

SERIAL NO: 09/810,506

FILED: MARCH 19, 2001

FOR: A METHOD FOR INCREASING
STRESS-RESISTANCE TO A
PLANT

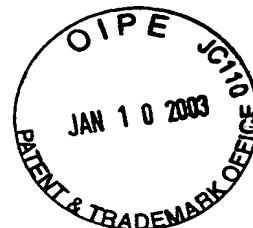
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: EXAMINER: COLLINS, C.

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: GROUP ART UNIT: 1638

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated October 18, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-9 and replace with the following new claims:

10. (New) A method of increasing drought resistance of a plant, comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:2 into the plant, wherein the protein is expressed in an amount sufficient to increase the drought resistance of the plant, wherein the drought resistance of the plant is higher compared to the plant prior to introducing the polynucleotide.

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